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MAY 04 2005

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Wojciech WYZGA et al. :
Application No. 10/068,318 : DECISION DISMISSING PETITION
Filed: February 5, 2002 : UNDER 37 CFR 1.137(b)
Attorney Docket No. 56712.00002 :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b), filed March 8, 2005, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

Any request for reconsideration of this decision must be submitted within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are permitted. The reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b)."

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to reply in a timely manner to the non-final Office action mailed July 13, 2004, which set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months. No extensions of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) were obtained. Accordingly, by operation of law, the above-identified application became abandoned on October 14, 2004.

The provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b) provide that where the delay in reply was unintentional, a petition may be filed to revive an abandoned application or a lapsed patent pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b). A grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by:

(1) the required reply, unless previously filed. In a nonprovisional application abandoned for failure to prosecute, the required reply may be met by the filing of a continuing application. In an application or patent, abandoned or lapsed for failure to pay the issue fee or any portion thereof, the required reply must be the payment of the issue fee or any outstanding balance thereof.

(2) the petition fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(m);

(3) a statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional; and

(4) any terminal disclaimer (and fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(d)) required pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(c).

The instant petition does not satisfy requirement (1) above. This application cannot be revived in the absence of the reply necessary to continue prosecution. See MPEP 711.03(c)II(A).

It is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nevertheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay. See 37 CFR 10.18(b) and Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice, 62 Fed. Reg. 53131, 53178 (October 10, 1997), 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 63, 103 (October 21, 1997). In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that it is not correct that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

There is no indication that the person signing the instant petition was ever given a power of attorney or authorization of agent to prosecute the above-identified application. If the person signing the instant petition desires to receive future correspondence regarding this application, the appropriate power of attorney or authorization of agent must be submitted. While a courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the person signing the instant petition, all future correspondence will be directed to the address currently of record until such time as appropriate instructions are received to the contrary. The USPTO will not undertake dual correspondence.

Furthermore, an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 must be filed prior to the expiration of the maximum extendable period for reply. See In re Application of S., 8 USPQ2d 1630, 1631 (Comm'r Pats. 1988). Accordingly, since the three-month extension of time submitted with the petition on March 8, 2005, was subsequent to the maximum extendable period for reply, petitioner may request a refund of this fee by writing to the Office of Finance, Refund Section. A copy of this decision should accompany petitioner's request.

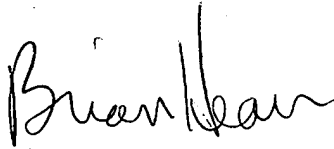
Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop Petitions
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Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Betsy Deppe at (571) 272-6052 or in her absence, the undersigned at (571) 272-3217.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Hearn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brian" being more prominent than the last name "Hearn".

Brian Hearn
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy

cc: Carl Oppedahl
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